



City Year reaches out to area middle school

April 4, 2006
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Capitol Middle school has adopted a new after school program for its students.

City Year After School Academy will be engaging students in various activities and also providing help with achieving academic success.

Michael Stevens, site director for the program, said the school requested City Year to come in and set up an after school program because they lacked an official after school club.

"The purpose of the program is to engage students in more extracurricular activities while helping them maintain good grades in school," Stevens said.

City Year After School Academy was developed by City Year Louisiana, which is part of the national organization, City Year, an organization started in 1988 aimed at becoming a powerful resource for addressing the nations most pressing issues and promoting community service.

According to Stevens, the program includes four different clubs which students are able to choose from: sports, step it up, service learning and visual performing arts.

"Each of these clubs is tailored to these students individual interests," Stevens said. "We are trying to show that there are other ways of learning than just the conventional methods, while building on their leadership abilities."

The sports club provides an opportunity for students to be involved in sports activities such as basketball, football, baseball and other team building activities.

The step it up program teaches students various step routines while encouraging their creativity by allowing them to create their own routines.

Service learning teaches participants how to research needs in the community and how to address those needs. Finally, students who choose to be a part of the visual and performing arts group are taught how to explore their artistic capabilities as well as stimulate their creativity and imagination.

The after school program is held every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Each day the activities consist of 30 minutes of homework help, followed by the students being divided up into their respective groups.

“The main priority is the thirty minutes set aside for homework,” Stevens said. “Students will be monitored and guided as they start and complete their homework. If they have none, then they participate in educational games or literature readings.”

Students can get involved by picking up an application from their school or from a City Year volunteer. There is no cost associated with participating. City Year is also seeking volunteers for the after school activities.

For more information about the program contact Stevens at 501.231.7389.